

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULAR POSTS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EIND, ETEL, SCUL, CA

SUBJ: BILL C-58, TIME CANADA SUSPENDS

REF: OTTAWA 0727

1. PRESS HAS REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY TIME CANADA PRESIDENT LARUE THAT TIME CANADA HAS SUSPENDED PUBLICATION, LAYING OFF 62 EMPLOYEES, IN THE WAKE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS GIVING THIRD READING TO BILL C-58 ON FEBRUARY 25. U.S. EDITION WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED IN CANADA WITH SUCH LOCAL ADVERTISING AS CAN BE OBTAINED AT RATES APPROXIMATELY HALF THOSE AT PRESENT.

QUOTE. THE PRESS RELEASE SAID TIME "WILL CONTINUE TO PRINT TIME IN CANADA AND TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF CIRCULATION WHICH WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO CANADIAN ADVERTISERS, EVEN THOUGH THAT ADVERTISING CAN NO LONGER BE DEDUCTED AS A NORMAL BUSINESS EXPENSE." ATTRIBUTED TO MR. LARUE, THE STATEMENT SAID THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR, TIME CANADA HAS CLEARLY AND REPEATEDLY STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE LAW IN EVERY RESPECT.

"WE HAVE NOT OPPOSED THE PRINCIPLE OF BILL C-58. TIME CANADA DOES NOT SEEK A SPECIAL STATUS OR A SPECIAL
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ADVANTAGE OF ANY SORT."

THE STATEMENT CALLED THE 80 PER CENT-DIFFERENT
INTERPRETATION AS BEING "EXCEPTIONAL AND SELECTIVE"
AND SPECIFICALLY DRAWN UP TO PREVENT TIME FROM QUALIFYING.
"THIS ARBITRARY RULE GROSSLY DISTORTS THE MEANING OF THE
LAW AND DOES VIOLENCE TO ITS WORDS."

AND IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGAL
ACTION IS BEING CONSIDERED.

"THERE IS GREAT DANGER WHENEVER GOVERNMENT ENCROACHES
ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S FREE ACCESS TO NEWS AND INFORMATION,
REGARDLESS OF COURSE, BY ASSUMING THE POWER TO DICTATE
WHAT KIND OF MAGAZINE MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST," THE
STATEMENT CONCLUDED. END QUOTE.

2. VOTE WAS HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT, 134 TO 95.
SIX LIBERALS JOINED THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES AGAINST
THE GOVERNMENT BILL.

3. TIME MAGAZINE OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF CONFIRMED TO
DCM TODAY THAT THIS WEEK'S CANADIAN EDITION IS THE LAST.
HENCEFORTH, U.S. VERSION, WITHOUT CANADIAN SECTION, WILL
BE PRINTED IN MONTREAL AND CIRCULATED TO ESTIMATED READER-
SHIP OF 350,000. ALL TIME BUREAUS IN CANADA WILL
BE CLOSED WITH EXCEPTION OTTAWA, WHICH WILL HAVE ONE REPORTER,
ONE SECRETARY, AND STRINGERS. TWO ADMEN WILL BE KEPT ON
IN TORONTO. LIMIT OF CANADIAN ADS WILL BE 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL,
SINCE GREATER PERCENTAGE WOULD MEAN TIME'S HAVING TO PAY 25
PERCENT LEVY ON ITS DISTRIBUTION.
ENDERS

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